THE PULPIT

A SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. IRA W. HENDERSON, THE FAMOUS DIVINE.

Subject: Loyalty to the Truth.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church on the theme, "Loyalty to the Truth," the Rev. I. W. Henderson, pastor, took as his text I. Kings 22:14: "And Micaiah said, as the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak." He said:

The four hundred false prophets were mere flatterers. They interpreted and delivered the oracles to suit the king's whim. They paid small attention to the measure of truth that their judgment contained. If they discovered wrong, they kept quiet about it. If they foresaw evil, they were equally silent. They were intimistic was to be popular. Self-interest dictated that they should return to the king good omens or none. Plausible prophesies landed a king in prison; and since Ahab wanted to be coddled and cajoled and flattered, they handed him to the host of their ability and to his full capacity. They were optimistic parrots. Therefore they were favorites at court.

Ahab hated Micaiah because he spoke the truth as it came to him direct from God. The monarch disliked premonitions of future evil and denunciations of existing evils. He preferred a fancied security to definite knowledge of conditions as they were. Ahab was ambitious and unscrupulous and superstitious. Led by these characteristics, Micaiah prophesied not good, but evil, and for that reason he was heartily happy to jail him.

Micaiah, however, had taken the advice of the king's officer and become one of the lying multitude. He might, with profit to himself in the eyes of Ahab, have retracted in earnest; rather than in sarcasm as he did, the prophecy of the falsifiers self-preservation. He might, with some self-advancement might, imaginably, have led him to have given the king just the answer for which his hoft yearned. The profit from the king's pleasure was at hand and within sight; the Lord would forgive him quicker than the monarch. Many a man has done that same way. But to Micaiah the truth was more precious than the benedictions of his ruler, the favor of Jehovah was more satisfying than were the praises of any man. "As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak." Brave, and his words are as inspiration to the men of America as they stand out on the strife line of duty we should follow in our time.

Too many of us lack the fidelity of Micaiah because we fear unpopularity. Cowardice supplants courage in no few hearts that are inspired by a vision of the truth because men dare not defy the disfavor of the idols of to-day. Sung self-satisfaction cries down the leader who would point the wrong, and above all, right it. Optimistic patriots in the church and out of it, with no eye save for the glowing, lustrous surface which hides a central life bitter deep with sin, decry as pessimistic the man who gains the evil in it.

Self-glorification is easier than self-examination. There is more pleasure for the crowd in recounting their achievement than in enquiring the central springs of life, and in analyzing the depth and the consequences of their iniquity. It takes less brains to state the achievements already accomplished than it does to investigate and determine the sureness and stability of the foundations upon which success is built. It is easier upon the head to relate idly the unexampled progress of your country or your church or your family or yourself in the attainment of material advantages, than it is to decide whether or no the gain was made righteously and in the fear of God, and whether or no it will result in future happiness and helpfulness for all concerned. It is far simpler, in factory, from the point of view of the opportunist, to take things as they are and to make the best of them. No man really likes to unearth sin; it isn't nice work and it is dirty. But to bury the evil and then stop its epidemic. To congratulate oneself upon the amount of water in the reservoir, and upon the power and efficiency of the pumps at the water works, is one way to diminish the heat of the fever. In these days we want and hail men of our own type of action who will look for the hidden germs of disease. Men in our desire to acclaim them we forget the days when, in spite of their self-satisfied complacence, the wicked, they proclaimed the certainty of our distress and disease. Then we forget that those men whom we reviled as pessimists are our saviors, then we forget the years of research and of patient study into conditions as they were, we forget the promonishments of our fool-wise wise, to our anguish at the situation as it is to say we forget. I may be wrong. Perhaps we only then appreciate.

We must have Micaiahs, men of loyalty to the truth at all hazards and at any cost, no less to-day than in the year that Ahab and Jehoshaphat went against the Aramaens at Ramoth-Gilead. Our age, our country, the church has need, and a great need for men who will speak out what the Lord saith unto them. To be sure those who are folding their arms in selfish ease will deride them as they did the Garrisons, the Phillipses of the sixties, marched and and fit subjects for the gallows. The man who would battle with the social evil to the death and declare the victory and the truth of God unto a white life for two sexes will find detractors and enemies on every hand. He who will annihilate the monster of intemperance and of legalized iniquity will be misunderstanded, find adherents of the devil even within the sacred precincts of the church of Jesus Christ. That economic hazard who shuns not the truth of God against the entrenched forces of gold-greedy materialism, in the interest of the men who toil, will find a treacherous and unrelenting army against him. He who will protect labor against itself will be forced to combat with evil men among those whom he wishes to uplift. But while a man may with less timidity advance new thought in the scientific world, in no place will he find, more, a more uncompromising resistance than in the church. But for God or all the simple fact is this, that nowhere has new light a harder fight than among many who are the followers of him who was the essence of all truth and who prayed the gift of the Spirit for them that they might have a sure guide into the fullness of eternal wisdom. The fight of the church of God against truth is the amazing spectacle of the ages.

The odds against truth to-day are tremendous; but even as Ahab returned to the city of his rule, so surely shall eternal and refining truth conquer in the age long struggle with the adversary.

Two things are necessary that truth may win and be accredited. First, we must be sure that our insight is correct, our truth born of God. And then we must be loyal to the voice of Jehovah as He speaks to us.

There is nothing more detrimental to the dignity and standing of the truth than irrational and ill-balanced thought. Every bit of truth is the word of God, but some statements which are exclusives of truth are not God-given, no matter how loudly and how long they may claim the distinction of divine inspiration. All truth may well be labeled, "thus saith the Lord," but all statements that bear the motto, "thus saith the Lord," are not truth. There are false prophets to-day no less than in the reign of Ahab, who will declare a message to men must first be sure of his message.

Not less important is it that a man be loyal to the truth revealed to him by the Spirit. Truth may be learned of the Holy Spirit. Truth may negative most of his own likes and cherished preconceptions. It may even subordinate his most cherished ideals. But by it he must stand. Micaiah went to prison for the truth and Jesus of Nazareth to the cross. Stephen was stoned by his enemies, as was Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, the priest. Jeremiah he was faithful to the truth. John the Baptist lost his head for declaring that Herod had lost his. Luther suffered as a martyr and the Smiths held martyrs suffered agony that with unflagging loyalty to the truth. list of heretics and excommunicated, the list of those who have lost life for truth's friends, the army of those crusaders who, under God, have battled hard with sin—all testify to the truth the glory of loyalty to divine truth. It is no easy matter to lead in the march of progress or to fight the forces of evil. Conservatism would clutch progress by the throat and battle it to the grave. Sin hates the light and would overcome it.

But whether or no the opposition be fierce we must be loyal, or men who will be firm for the truth and its triumph. As the Lord lives, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak." Brave, and his words are as inspiration to the men of America as they stand out on the strife line of duty we should follow in our time.

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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NOTES

DECEMBER SECOND.

Courage or Cowardice—Which?—Luke 12:4, 5; Gal. 1:9-12; Jer. 1:6-10, 17.

Much fighting—among men and nations—is simply because men are too cowardly to stand by the principles of peace (Luke 12:4).

"He's not afraid of anything," we say in admiration; but a well-bestowed fear is one of the most valuable human qualities (Luke 12:5).

Pleasing men is well enough if it is by-product of our lives, and not the main product (Gal. 1:10).

Consciousness of God's presence is the bad man's prison and the good man's fortress (Jer. 1:18).

Suggestions.

The word "courage" comes from the latin word cor, heart. Whatever the appearance, a man is courageous if his heart is brave.

The most valiant exercise of courage is manfully to grapple with one's meanest sins and fear them out of one's life.

No one is likely to have the true courage if he admires the false courage.

Spiritual courage is helped by physical courage, but physical courage cannot endure at all without spiritual courage.

Illustrations.

"Your face is pale," sneered one soldier to another. "Yes," he answered: "I'm sorry mine was not as red as I am, you would have run long ago."

A Quaker often shows more courage by refusing to go to war than a soldier in the hottest battle.

Peter, who whipped out his sword in Gethsemane, shrank from a woman's tongue in the high priest's courtyard.

Perhaps Paul's most courageous act was in continuing his journey to Jerusalem in spite of his friends' prayers, well knowing what fate awaited him there.

Am I afraid of the right things? Am I bold where Christ wants me bold?

Is my courage firmly based upon Christian faith?

Courage consists not in blindly hurling oneself into danger, but in seeing it and conquering it.—Richter.

Courage without discipline is nearer beastliness than manhood.—Sir Philip Sidney.

Courage is always greatest when blended with meekness.—Chapin.

God is the source of courage and not the coward's excuse.—Plutarch.

EPWORTH LEAGUE LESSONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2.

Temptations and How to Meet Them. Matt. 4. 3-11.

Daily Readings.

The sphere of temptation.—1 John 2. 16.

How they work.—James 1. 12-15.

A cheering promise to the tempted.—Jer. 29. 12.

How to endure to the end.—Heb. 12. 3.

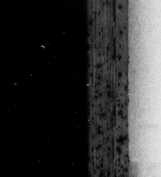
The snare of plenty.—Deut. 8. 11-18.

Do not choose bad companions.—Prov. 1. 10-14.

Vain Expectations and How to Meet Them.—Matt. 4. 2-11.

Christ's temptations came. It is in the case, essentially. Temptation is the test of character. Temptations, which is the supreme attribute of human nature. Without this essential, as says Dr. Austin Phelps, "a man would have no right to say I, I, I." Without it a humanity is the equal with it he is kindred of the gods. Further he says: "Few men can stand on the summit of a lofty tower without a momentary sense of power to hurl themselves headlong. A special police guard the Colosseum Windows, Paris, to prevent that form of suicide, and multitudes of ordained spectators go to an evil deed." Temptation is solicitation to exercise this godlike power of choice in ways forbidden by highest wisdom, by God himself.

Then, two modes of exercise of evil prompting and solicitation. "A man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lusts." James said. That, "Satan is time," 7 for most of all," said Luther (was it?). "the great prose tempter, Spirit." There is, according to Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, another source of temptation, personal, real personality we call the devil, or Satan. "He goeth about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." "He has many wiles, even opposite as an angel of light, sometimes, perhaps oftenest so —at least when he tempts people who do not go to church. Besides this evil, invisible personality there are multitudinous modes of temptation in the world. Evil-persons tempt us to do wrong. The persons of life's necessities, or its fancied needs, is heavy upon us. Men lie, steal, forge for gain's cause.



For the Chicken Raiser.

here is a good example. It is simple, efficient and durable. As shown here it is reversible, with two inches of sheet metal. The top and sides are cut to shape, with flanges at the bottom which project to the left for fitting. At each side are supports which rest on the ground, leaving room for ground, tending to keep the crop moisture-proof and preventing—rain or other water from entering. The each end are perforated ducts, which are easily made for the position. At the bottom of each door is an extension, through which passes a rod, the latter extending through the top of the coop and also into the ground, preventing the coop from being displaced. In this way the coop is made safe against the attacks of animals.—Philadelphia Record.

Wheat Homes For Turkeys.

While the idea of providing a place to roost high, the privilege can not always be accorded if a structure is to be provided for the birds in which to roost. If they are to roost in the trees, then they may choose their own limb. It is a good plan to make the turkey house low, but placing the roosts as high as possible without jumping the birds up against the roof. The ventilation in such a house must largely be provided from the bottom, and this is done by having a

FOR THE FARMER AND STOCKMAN

Sheep Benefit Land.

Sheep are the only animals which do not really exhaust the land on which they feed. They distribute manure evenly on the field and trample it into the soil, feeding upon plants that other animals will not consume.

Balky Horses.

There is no denying that a balky horse is a great nuisance, but it is a shame the way some people treat them. They beat and kick them and swear at them. This only makes them worse. Many a horse balks because he has been badly cared for.

Potatoes on Tilled Land.

It is claimed that well-grown potatoes grown on land that has been tilled so as to permit of perfect drainage, there is less liability of the tubers rotting than on other soils. The most important matter, however, is to use seed potatoes from localities where no disease has existed.

Wealth From Ten Acres.

Ten acres of small fruits will often make a man more truly prosperous than ten times as much land in wheat or corn. He may not be worth as much in actual capital invested, but he will be getting a larger net income, and will always be "well-to-do" all the small farm will yield, whether it be in fruits, dairy, vegetables, or what not, is always the most satisfactory. The principal capital required to start such a farm is a level head and knowledge of the business.

Stock Notes.

Yearling Calves and Colts—Should be fed enough to keep them growing steadily and not fatten.

Courage without discipline is nearer beastliness than manhood.—Sir Philip Sidney.

Courage is always greatest when blended with meekness.—Chapin.

Variation of Food Promotes Appetite—All animals become disgusted with a long succession of food. Change is refused tempt the animal with something else. In this manner sickness and loss of flesh may be avoided.

Feeding Calves—The proper feeding of calves has been a fruitful source of discussion. One point not to be overlooked is that all vessels used must be scalded and kept clean as germs of disease always exist in "dry vessels.—The Epitomist.

Protect Trees From Borers.

To protect trees from borers mix cement with skim milk and apply with a stiff brush. Mix only a small quantity at a time, as it may "set." Apply it in a somewhat thin consistency. First, remove the earth from the trunk of the tree and apply the mixture at the base below the ground and a foot above.

Chicken Coop.

It has been proven by statistics that the raising of chickens is the greatest industry in the United States. Of course, this includes those who are in the business on a large scale for profit, and also those who probably keep a half dozen fowl in the back yard. Nevertheless, whether for business or pleasure, chicken raising is an interesting pastime that appeals to everybody. It is claimed that chickens should have as much care as a human being to insure the best results, and modern methods certainly point in that direction. The chicken coop shown

row of windows not over eighteen inches high above the bottom, so arranged that can be lifted up to permit a current of air to enter.

These windows will also light the floor of the house, and a larger window may be placed on the opposite side, but higher up, in order properly to light the house. The turkeys will be anxious to get out of the house early in the morning to roam, so after they have gone to roost sprinkle a little grain on the chaff on the floor to keep them busy in the morning until they are let out. Turkeys on the range must be well fed during the period they are under cover, particularly at this time of year when the feeding on the range is poor, and when it is essential to keep them in condition for the market. Nothing will really a little later.—Indianapolis News

Caring For Brood Mares.

The brood mares, in fact, all the horses on the farm that are not at work in the winter, should be turned in a good sized yard every day, unless it is stormy. This yard should not be icy, as there is danger of their falling and getting hurt. We stable all our horses and colts nights and feed them twice a day oats and clover hay with some bran.

When spring comes be careful with the brood mares and any other horses that may have been idle during the winter. Work them lightly at first, taking more time to get them used to work. In this way you can do more work and have your horses in better condition when you are through with the spring work.

Too many colts are injured every year about the first of June, as by that time we have our spring work done and can give the mares a better chance. Have a clean, roomy box stall; it is well to whitewash it every year and disinfect it with carbolate or some other good disinfectant. Be on hand when the little fellow appears. Feed the mare lightly for a few days, increasing her feed gradually. If you have not been there never let the colt follow her. Keep it in the stable and bring the mother in to it. Watch the navel until cold, and then with a little coffee powder, or some other good disinfectant. Be careful